

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN DREW COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK (9-09) -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Drew County, according to Commission Chairman R. Madison Murphy of El Dorado and Drew County Judge Damon Lampkin.

The first project will construct the grading and structures for 8.5 miles of future Interstate 69. Southern Industrial Contractors, LLC of Rayville, Louisiana, was awarded the contract at \$13,159,488.54.

“This is the first of several projects that will construct the southern bypass of Monticello,” stated Murphy. “It is the first highway project in this area that will eventually be a part of Interstate 69,” Murphy added.

“This will construct two lanes of a future four-lane road that will stretch along the southeast area of town. It will begin at Highway 278, east of town, and continue to the southwest where it will connect to Highway 425, south of town.”

“The work will also include the construction of two bridges, one over the Union Pacific railroad tracks and one over County Road 36,” Murphy added.

The purpose of the second project is to resurface two miles of County Road 450, north of Wilmar. Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel Company of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$267,500.28.

“These improvements will begin at Highway 35 and continue southward,” stated Judge Lampkin.

Murphy noted that the County Road project is funded through the State Aid Road Program established by the legislature and administered by the State Aid Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. This program provides approximately \$20 million annually from the state motor fuels tax to assist counties with projects of their choosing on the county road system.

Murphy said work could begin on the project in two to four weeks, weather permitting. The project on Interstate 69 should be completed in 2014. Completion of work on County Road 450 is expected in late 2011.

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